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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 DJIBOUTI 000650

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR DS/DSS, DS/DSS/IP, DS/IP/AF, DS/IP/ITA, DS/PII,  
DS/IP/ATA  
ADDIS ABABA, ASMARA AND NAIROBI FOR RSO  
CJTF HOA FOR J2, J2X, ATFP, MARCENT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/02/2029

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PREL](#) [DJ](#) [ET](#)

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI: EXPLOSION IN THE CITY LIMITS

Classified By: RSO Marc Ramos for reason 1.4 (b) AND (c)

[1](#)1. (SBU) SUMMARY: On 26 April, 2004 an explosion took place in Quartier 4 (Q4) in the city of Djibouti. One person was injured and taken to the hospital for treatment. The National Police (PN) conducted an investigation and submitted their findings to RSO Djibouti. Several details of the incident remain inconclusive, but RSO will continue to work with Host Nation counterparts to try and solidify the information.

[1](#)2. (C) On 26 April, 2004 (time unknown) the Chief Investigator of the PN, Commander Omar Houssein, was notified by the PN command center that an explosion occurred in a house located in Q4 near the Cheik Issa Mosque. Cmdr Houssein immediately initiated an investigation.

Upon arrival to the site, Cmdr Houssein instructed an ambulance to transport a female, (ethnicity unknown), to the Djiboutian central medical facility - Peltier Hospital. The PN then proceeded to question and subsequently arrest eight individuals at the site, who were suspected of involvement in the incident.

The PN collected several pieces of metal, which they believe are fragmented parts of the explosive device. An assessment of the blast pattern was conducted and the PN came to the conclusion that the device was placed in the kitchen ceiling of the house. Unfortunately, the PN does not have the material resources to effectively identify the type or size of device used.

The PN states that as a result of interviews, Youssouf Mohamoud Said (an Ethiopian Oromo male) is the primary suspect in detonation of the device. In addition, the PN believe that Said and his brother, Djamal Mahamoud Said, are probably the individuals responsible for either carrying out or coordinating bombings aboard the Djibouti/Ethiopian train in the past year. Unfortunately, Djamal fled the scene and is nowhere to be found. The PN is continuing their investigation and have promised to keep the RSO informed as to the development of the case.

[1](#)3. (S) RSO Notes: RSO believes that much of this information was passed to him in an effort to gain support for the Djiboutian theory on the train bombings. The Djiboutians theorize that the Ethiopian government is behind the explosions on the train and they have made several attempts to solicit support from the USG in the manner of financial resources to invigorate a failing transport system. Djiboutians are well aware of the passion that Americans have for countering terrorism and use key words such as bombs, terrorists and security to garner financial and material assistance at available opportunities. RSO will continue to monitor the investigation, but remains skeptical of information provided by Djiboutian authorities.

[1](#)4. (SBU) On a positive note, reports from several sources indicated that the Djiboutian investigative team responded quickly to the scene of the crime and conducted their investigation in a methodical and professional manner. Bystanders were impressed with the type of evidence collection equipment used and the precise application of specialized tools to secure the site and determine the location of the device. This sort of response can only be attributed to the successful contribution put forth by the Anti Terrorism Assistance program. The techniques applied and equipment used is directly linked to the Post Blast Investigation Course and the Terrorist Crime Scene investigation course. These courses have been crucial in enhancing the very capabilities needed to respond to an incident at the Embassy and is the best dollar for dollar investment the USG has in countering terrorism in Djibouti.

[1](#)5. (S) RSO requests ITA, PII and Embassies Addis Ababa, Asmara, Nairobi, Khartoum and Sanaa conduct name checks on the following persons to correlate any potential terrorist associations:

- Mohamed Said Dirir - Djiboutian National (landlord)

- Youssouf Mohamed Said, Ethiopian Oromo (prime suspect in custody)
- Djamal Mohamed Said - AKA "Gandokoray" (prime suspect at large)
- Safia Abdillahi Mouhoumed, Ethipoian Oromo (spouse of Youssouf Mohamed Said)
- Said Aden, Djiboutian National
- Khairia Abass Omar, Ethiopian Oromo (spouse of Aden)
- Mahdi Said Aden, Djiboutian National (son of Aden and Khairia)
- Aicha Ahmed Said, Ethiopian Oromo
- Assia Youssouf Robleh, Ethiopian Oromo
- Ahmed Mohamed Abdoulkader, Djiboutian National

15. POC is RSO Marc Ramos at 253-35-39-95 or 253-35-26-73 (secure).

RAGSDALE